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MARVEL®

FINAL ISSUE!

ANIMAX™

AT LAST! I NOW HAVE
THE POWER TO VANQUISH
THE ANIMAX! HA HA HA!



**DON'T MISS--
THE END OF THE
ANIMAX!**

25TH CENTURY EARTH IS A PLANET DIVIDED. ON ITS BETTER HALF--THE LITESIDE--DWELL THE ANIMAX, PEACEFUL CREATURES, EACH OF WHOM ENJOYS A TELEPATHIC BOND TO HIS OWN ROADTAMMER, ON EARTH'S DARKER FACE--THE NITESIDE--LIVE THE CARNIVALS AND THEIR HARSH, AUTHORITARIAN MASTERS, THE MOTOR MUTANTS. BACK AND FORTH, ACROSS THE BRIDGE LINKING LITESIDE TO NITESIDE, THE ANIMAX--COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE EARTH AND THE HUMANS UPON IT--ENGAGE IN A NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CARNIVALS, WHO ARE BENT ON WORLD DOMINATION. AND SO IT IS, THAT, ONE DAY...

GOOD WORK, GREASE-KICKER, YOUR PETROL PUMPER GUN TRIPPED UP THAT DELICIOUS HUMAN BEFORE SHE COULD REACH THE ROADTAMERS!

PIECE O' CAKE, X-TINCTOR!

NOW GRAB HER, MY MOTOR MUTANTS! THEIR INFERNAL ANIMAX ARE NO MATCH FOR OUR CARNIVALS!

IF YOU INSIST, BOSS.

WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR?

THE LIVING BRIDGE OF DOOM IS NEUTRAL TERRITORY FOR A GOOD REASON, RHINOX! WE CAN'T MAKE A MOVE UNTIL THE MOTOR MUTANTS DO...

WE ALSO CAN'T LET X-TINCTOR HAVE THE WOMAN, TIGER TRAKKER!

I'LL NEVER REACH MAX ACTION AND THE SAFETY OF THE LITESIDE IN TIME! THE MUTANTS ARE ALMOST ON TOP OF ME ALREADY.

TERRY KAVANAGH
WRITER

STEVE PURCELL
PENCILER

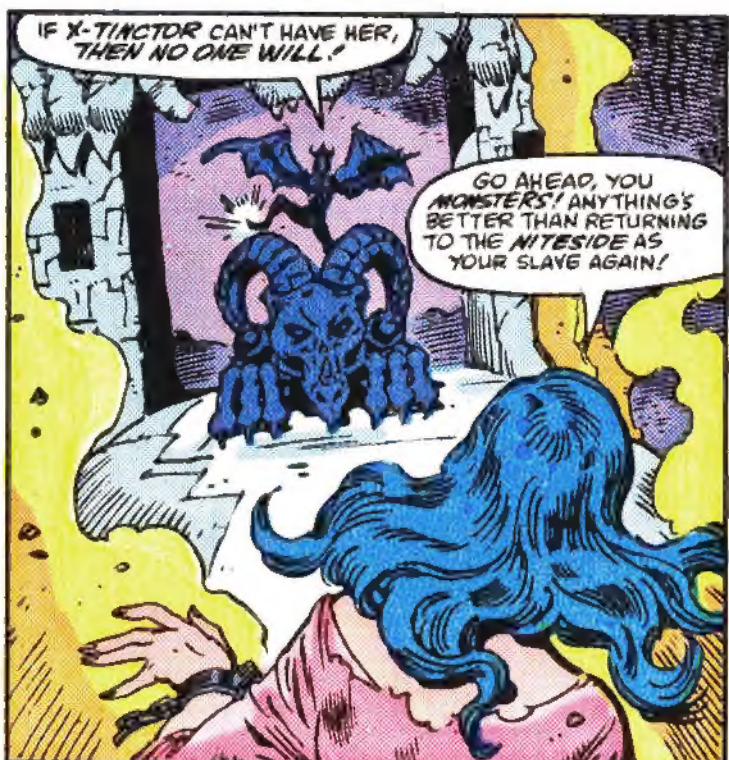
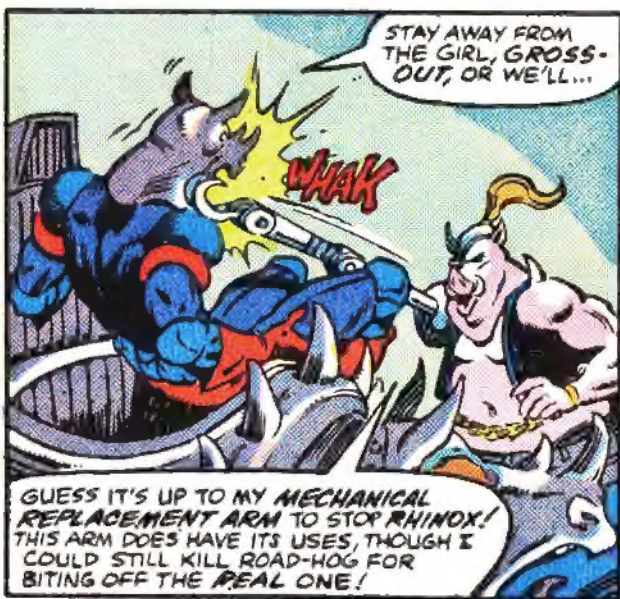
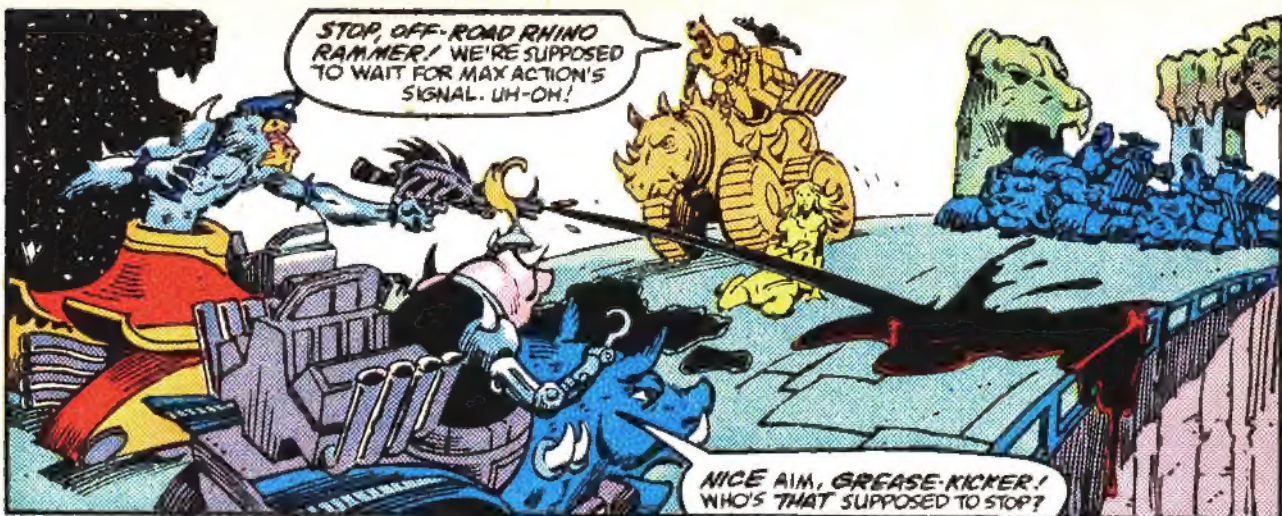
GERRY TALAOC
INKER

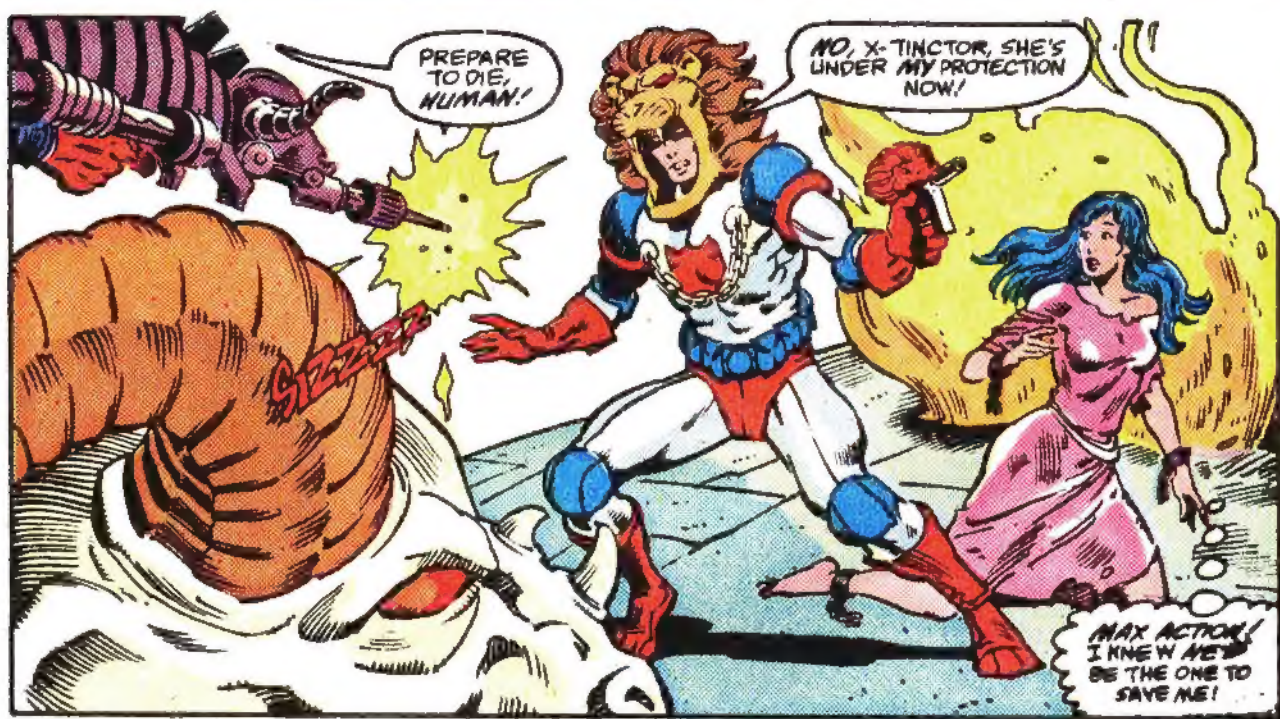
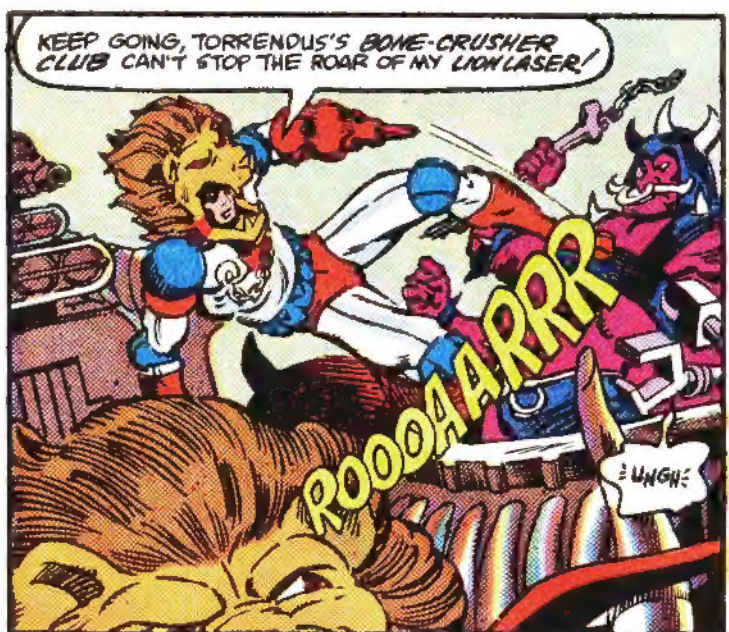
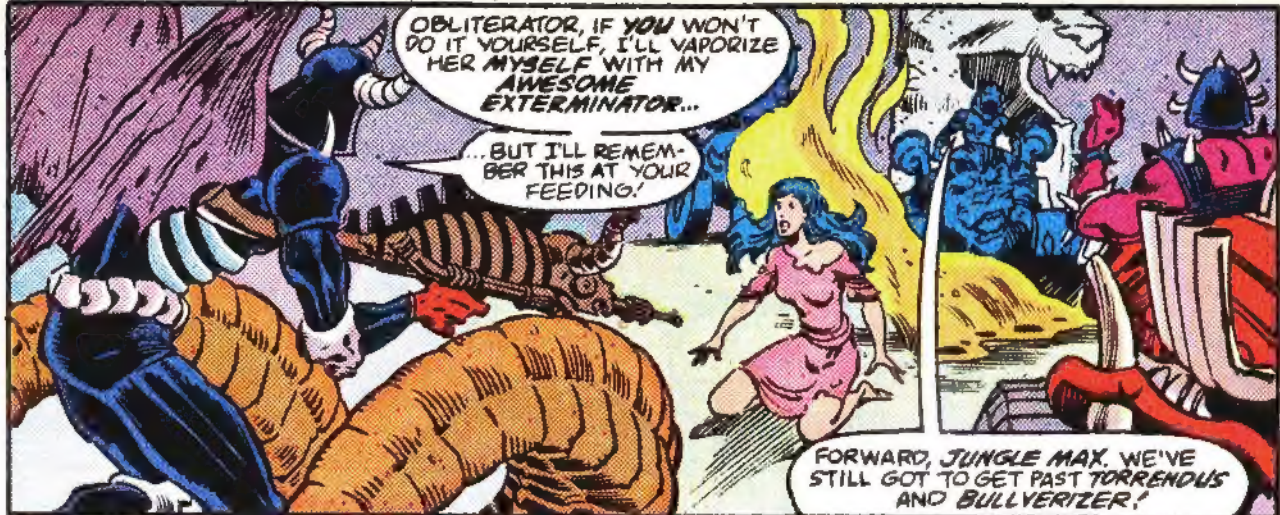
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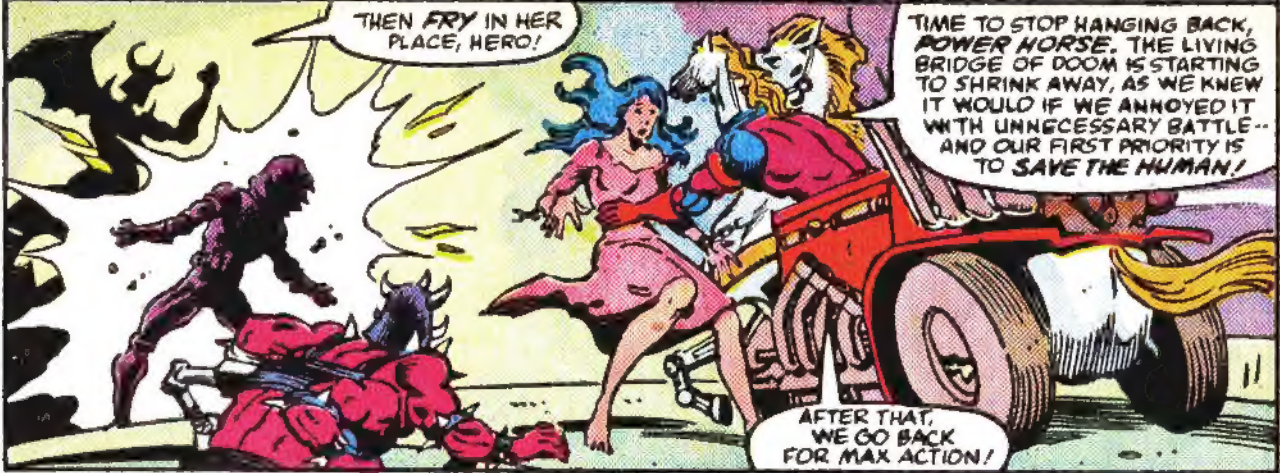
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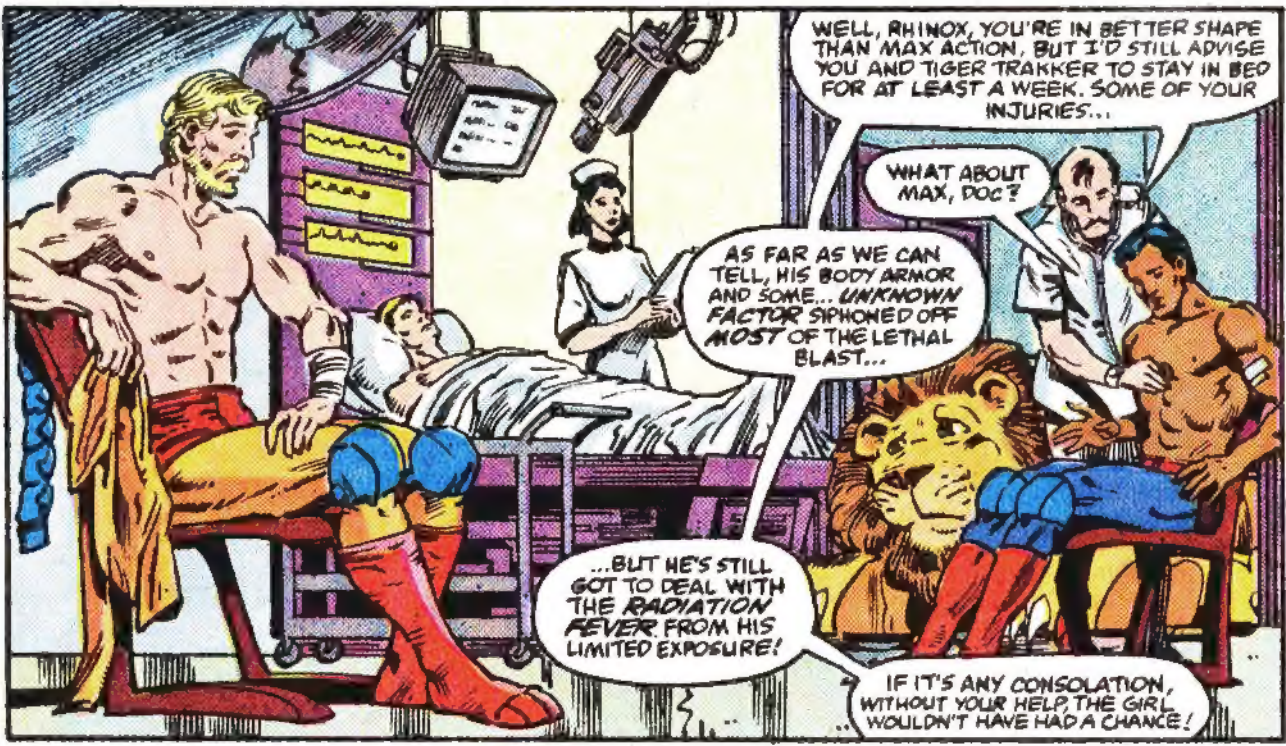
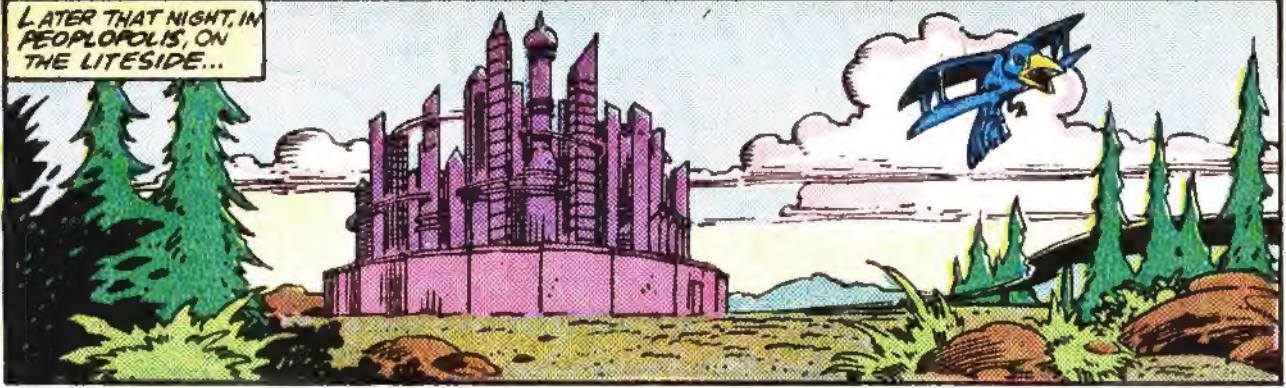
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF







LATER THAT NIGHT, IN
PEOPLOPOLIS, ON
THE LITESIDE...



WELL, RHINOX, YOU'RE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN MAX ACTION, BUT I'D STILL ADVISE YOU AND TIGER TRAKKER TO STAY IN BED FOR AT LEAST A WEEK. SOME OF YOUR INJURIES...

WHAT ABOUT MAX, DOC?

AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HIS BODY ARMOR AND SOME... UNKNOWN FACTOR SIPHONED OFF MOST OF THE LETHAL BLAST...

...BUT HE'S STILL GOT TO DEAL WITH THE RADIATION FEVER FROM HIS LIMITED EXPOSURE!

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THE GIRL WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE!



C'MON, TIGER TRAKKER, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! LET'S TALK TO THE GIRL, SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL US WHERE X-TINCTOR WOULD BE HOLDING TARMAC...

IF HE'S EVEN ALIVE!

...SO MAX ACTION CAN LEAD US ON THE RESCUE MISSION AS SOON AS HE RECOVERS.



I'M AFRAID YOU GENTLEMEN DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T EXPECT MAX ACTION TO SURVIVE THE NEXT FEW HOURS, MUCH LESS RECOVER ENOUGH TO LEAD A RESCUE MISSION!

**MONSTRA-CITY
THE NITESIDE...**

X-TINCTOR, NOW THAT WE'VE CAUGHT A ROADTAMER, WHADDA YA WANT ME TA DO WIT' HIM?

ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU FOOLS! THE SECRET OF THE ROADTAMERS' STRENGTH LIES IN THEIR TELEPATHIC LINKS WITH THEIR CURSED ANIMAX!

I WANT MEATHOOK TO UTILIZE ALL THE GLORIOUS... DEVICES I'VE STOCKED HIS SHOP WITH TO DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THAT POWER IMMEDIATELY...

... EVEN IF HE HAS TO TAKE TARMAC APART TO DO IT!

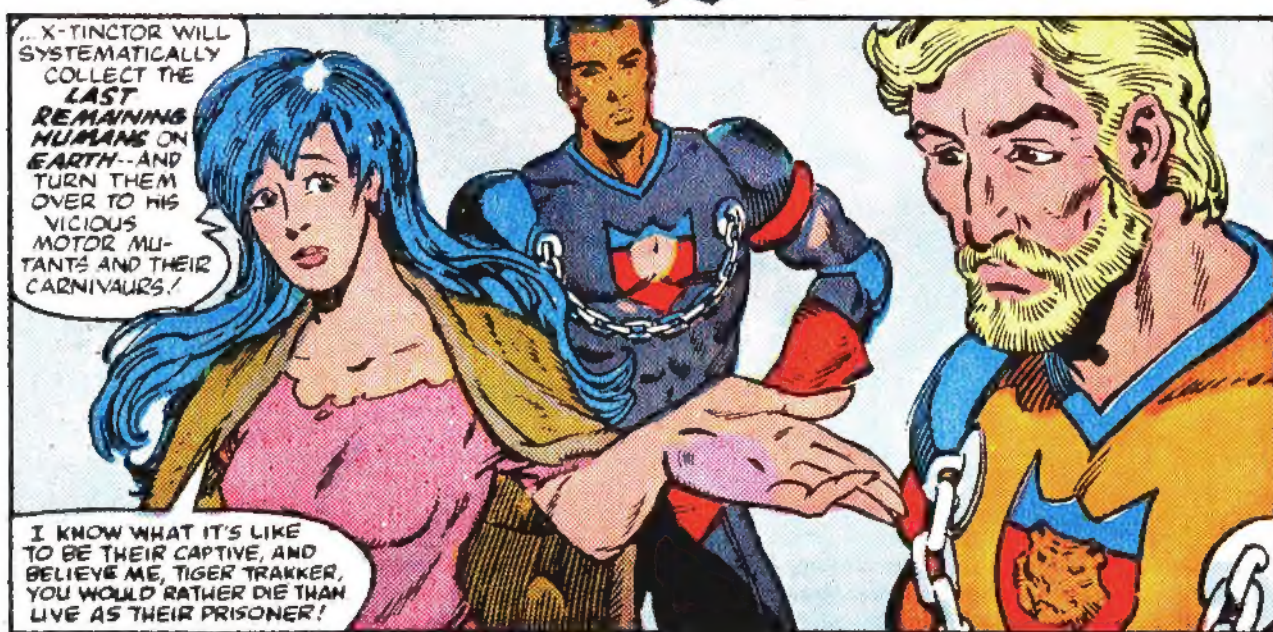
UH-OH, NOT ANOTHER SPEECH...

...EVEN IF HE HAS TO TAKE
TARMAC APART TO DO IT!

UH-OH, NOT ANOTHER SPEECH...



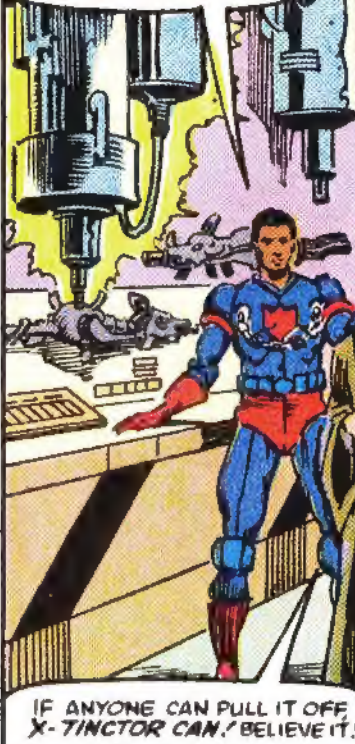
"ONCE I LEARN THE SECRET OF THE MINDLINKS, I'LL CONTROL OBLITERATOR'S WEATHER ABILITIES! AND WITH HIS POWER, I'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE! THE ROADTAMERS AND THEIR ANIMAX WILL BE THE FIRST TO FALL!"



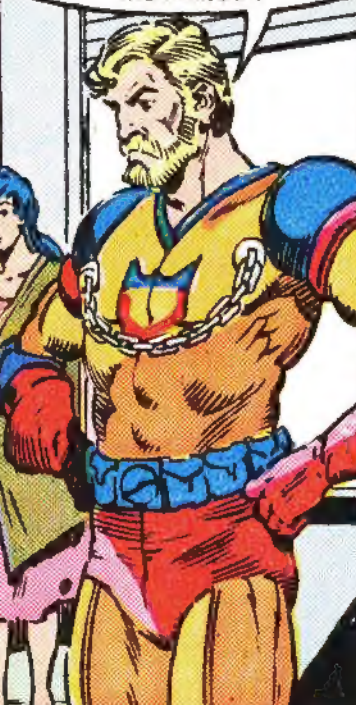
"... X-TINCTOR WILL SYSTEMATICALLY COLLECT THE LAST REMAINING HUMANS ON EARTH--AND TURN THEM OVER TO HIS VICIOUS MOTOR MUTANTS AND THEIR CARNIVOURS!"

"I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THEIR CAPTIVE, AND BELIEVE ME, TIGER TRANKER, YOU WOULD RATHER DIE THAN LIVE AS THEIR PRISONER!"

WE CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN,
TIGER TRAKKER!



PLAN BLUE'LL NEVER WORK,
RHINOX. EVEN WE DON'T FULLY
UNDERSTAND OUR LINKS WITH
THE ANIMAX!



THE SECRET OF THE LINKS
MUST NOT FALL INTO THAT
MANIAC'S HANDS!



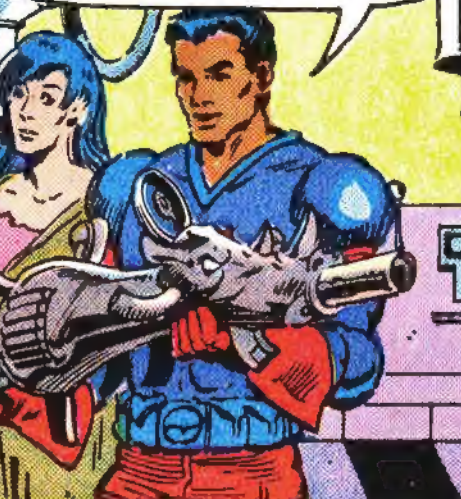
OUR NUMBERS
ARE HALVED,
AND WITHOUT
MAX ACTION,
WE'RE LEADER
LESS, BUT FOR
TARMAC'S
SAKE AND TO
PROTECT
THE HUMANS,
WE'VE GOT
TO THWART
X-TINCTOR'S
PLAN!



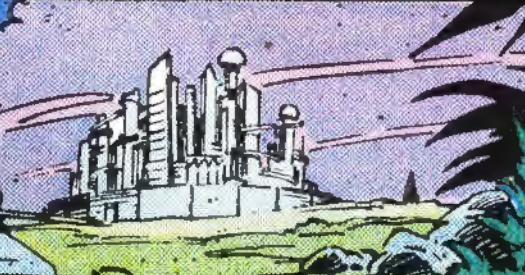
WELL, I DO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER WITH
MY STRIPED STRIKER ALL JUICED UP



YEAH, A LITTLE SOLAR POWER REALLY
MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN MY RHINO
BAZOOKA BLASTER, TOO, PAL.



"GOOD STRATEGY TELLS ME OTHERWISE,
BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION, RHINOX--
WE'LL RAID THE NITESIDE AS SOON AS
THE ANIMAX RETURN FROM THEIR
'PILGRIMAGE' TO THE CAVE OF LYING
LEGEND!"



AS THE ANIMAX TRAVEL TO THE CAVE OF THE LIVING LEGEND, EACH LISTENS IN, TELEPATHICALLY, TO HIS ROADTAMER IN THE ROADTAMERS' STRATEGY COUNCIL.

I SAW HUMONGOUS HAULER TRAILING BEHIND THE REST OF THE ANIMAX EARLIER, TIGER TRAKKER-- THAT MEANS TUSKOR IS AROUND SOMEWHERE.

FIND HIM, RHINOX, WE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET ON THIS MISSION!

WELCOME, ANIMAX, TO THE CAVE OF LIVING LEGEND. WELCOME, OFF-ROAD RHINO RAMMER, TURBO TIGER, POWER HORSE, AND HUMONGOUS HAULER.

PLEASE NOTE THE INFINITE FACETS OF ANIMAX HISTORY AND KNOWLEDGE DISPLAYED ON THE WALLS OF THE CAVE FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT AND EDUCATION.

WHEN YOU HAVE FOUND THE AREA OF THE WALLS THAT BEST ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE PLUG INTO THE APPROPRIATE RECEPTACLES.

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

THANK YOU. AH, YOU WISH TO KNOW HOW BEST TO HELP YOUR ROADTAMERS--

-- THEN YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT PAIN!

THE PAIN YOU FEEL IS NOT
YOUR PAIN--IT IS THE PAIN
OF YOUR RIDERS AND
FRIENDS, HUMONGOUS
HAULER

THEIR SUFFERING-- BOTH PHYSICAL
AND MENTAL-- CAN BE YOURS, IN-
STEAD, SHARED THROUGH YOUR
TELEPATHIC LINKS, TURBO TIGER

WITH YOUR HELP THE
ROADTAMERS COULD BE
ALL BUT INVINCIBLE IN
BATTLE, OFF-ROAD
RHINO RAMMER

OF COURSE, THERE IS A
PRICE, ISN'T THERE,
POWER HORSE?

BESIDES THE SIMPLE FACT
THAT PAIN HURTS, OVER-USE
OF THIS ABILITY COULD LEAD
TO PERMANENT LOSS OF
THE MINDLINK BETWEEN
AN ANIMAX AND HIS
ROADTAMER...

... LEAVING THE ANIMAX AS
NOTHING MORE THAN A
MINDLESS MECHANICAL
ANIMAL!

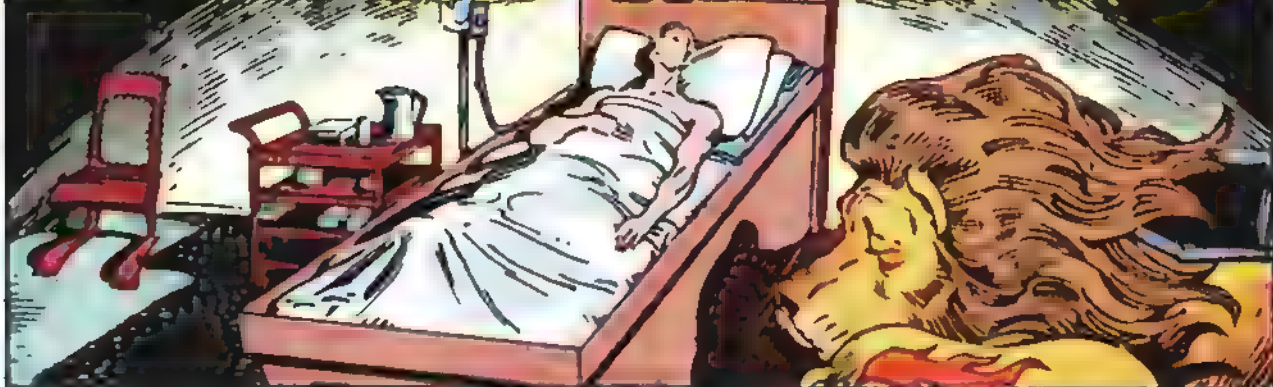
IT WOULD MEAN A COMPLETE LOSS
OF THAT ANIMAX'S VERY AWARENESS
OF EXISTENCE, AND FURTHERMORE--

- GOOD DAY,
OFF-ROAD RHINO-
RAMMER, TURBO
TIGER, AND POWER
HORSE, THANK YOU
FOR COWING...

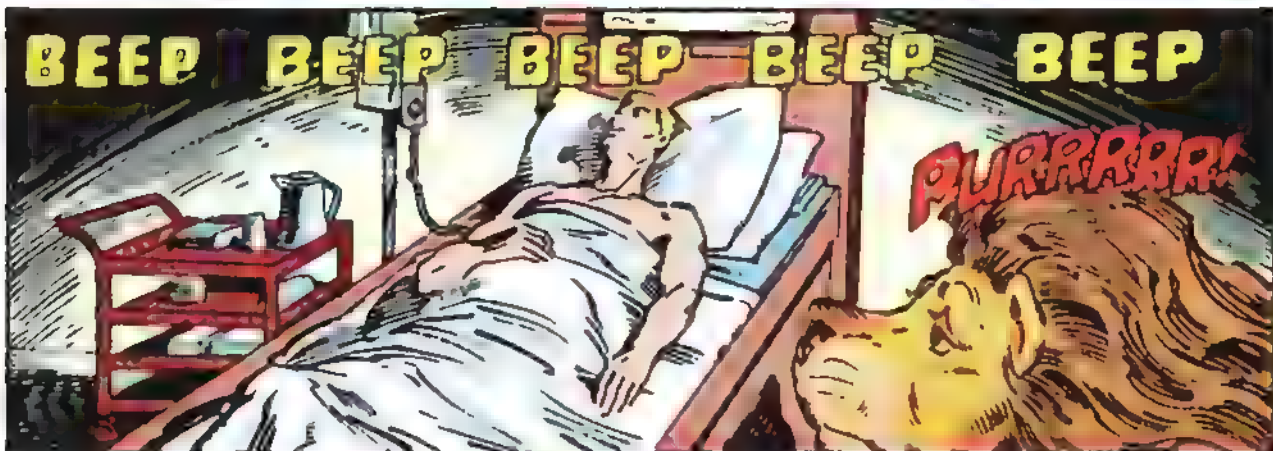
-- AND FURTHERMORE
HUMONGOUS HAULER

BACK AT MAX
ACTION'S REDSIDE

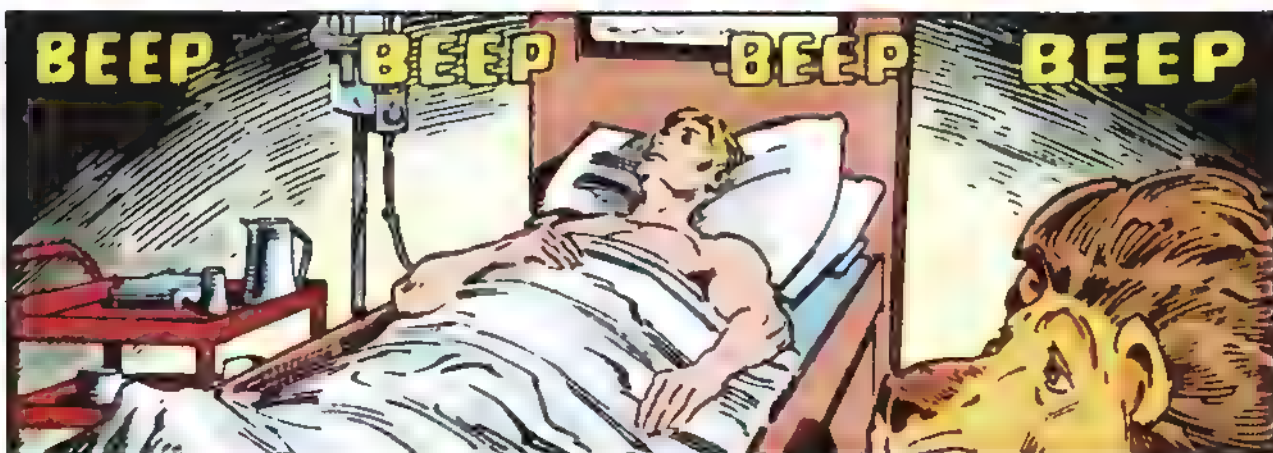
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP



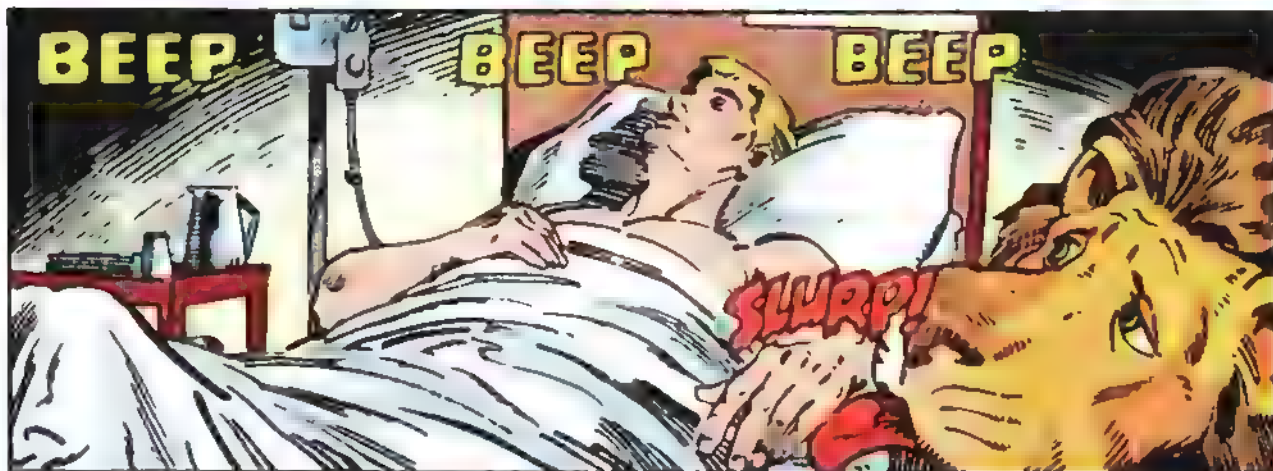
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

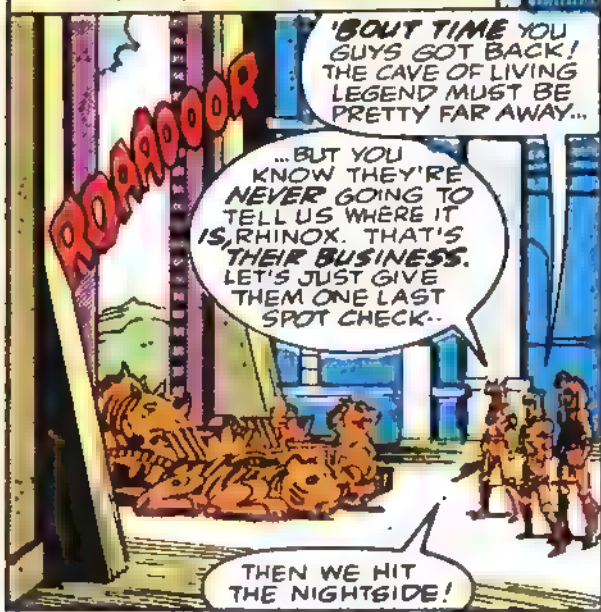


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP



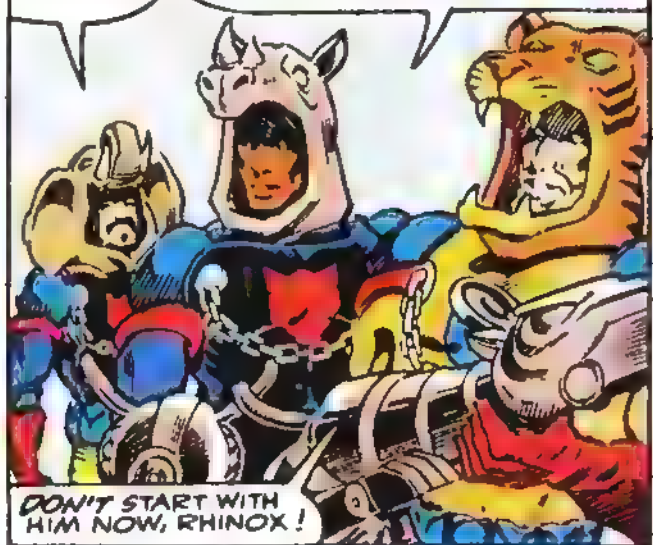
BEEP BEEP BEEP





WHERE'S HUMONGOUS HAULER?

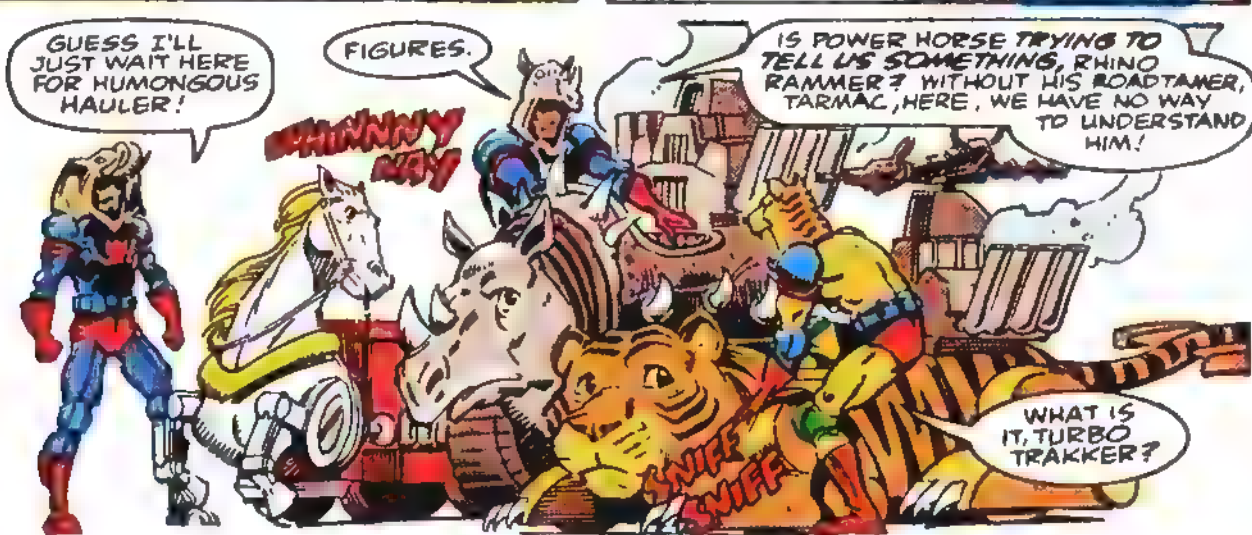
IT WAS TOUGH ENOUGH FINDING YOU, TUSKOR. AS USUAL, YOUR ANIMAX IS PROBABLY SHUFFLING WAY BEHIND THE REST OF THEM...



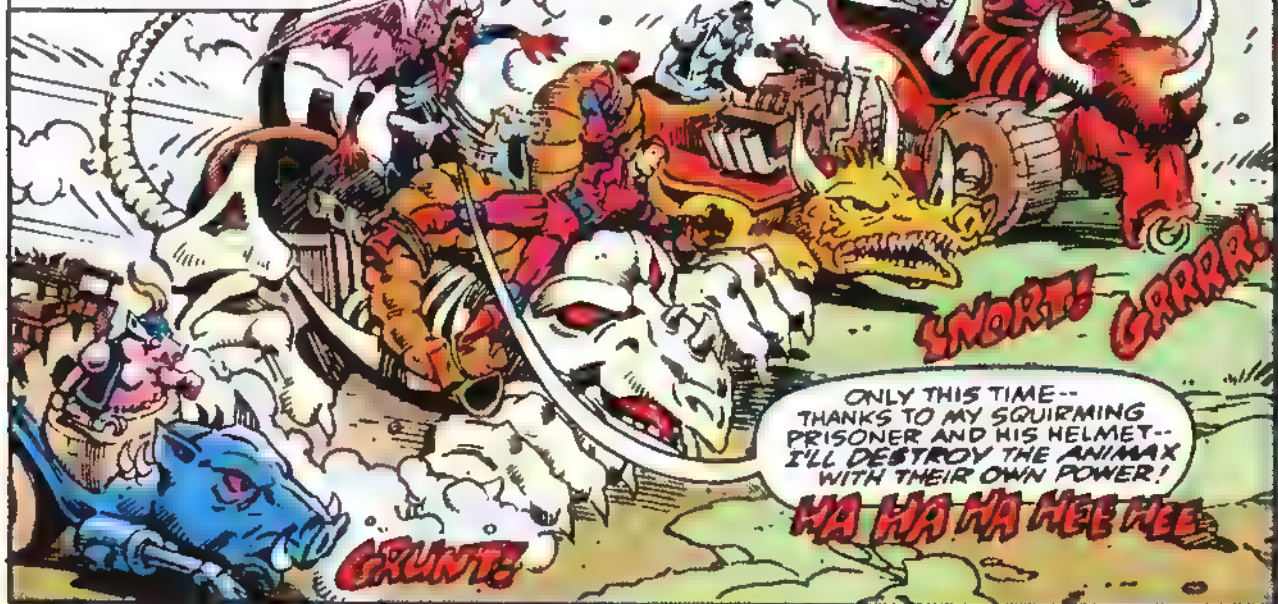
GUESS I'LL JUST WAIT HERE FOR HUMONGOUS HAULER!

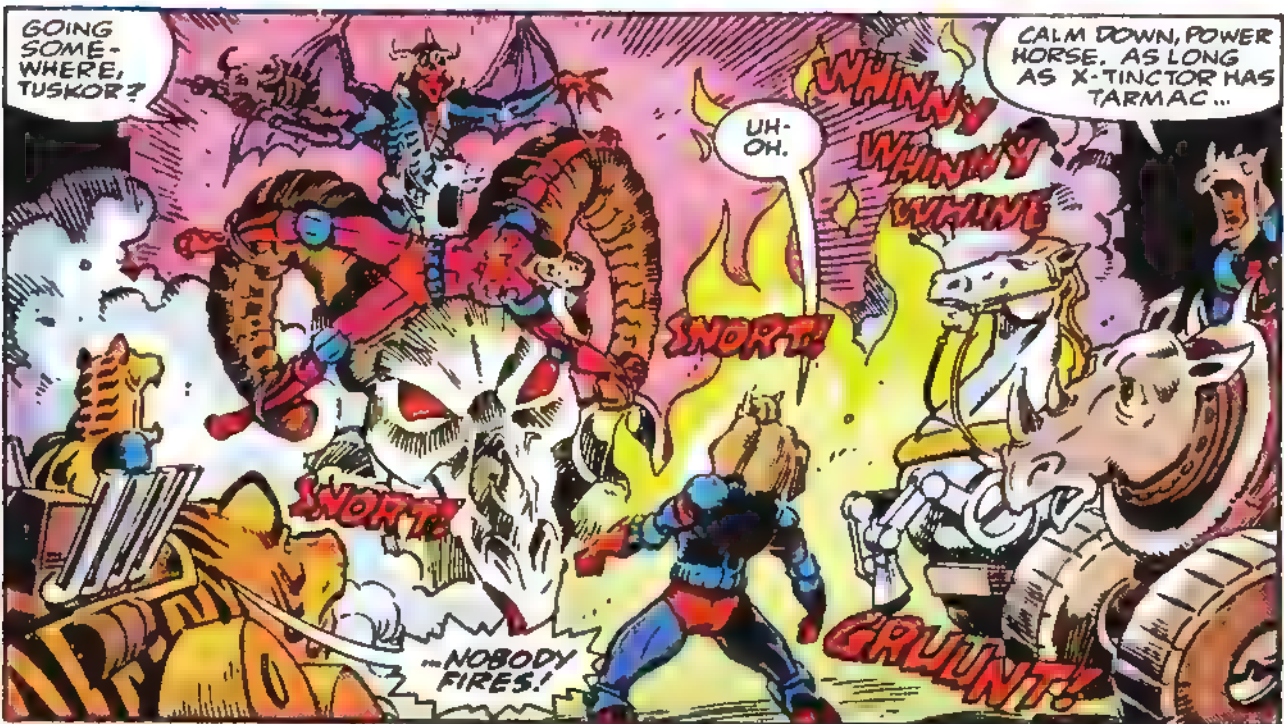
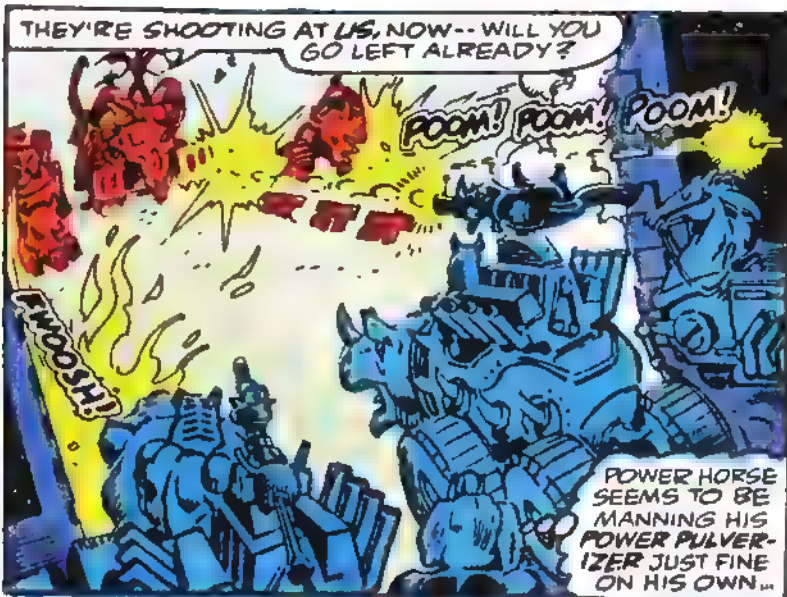
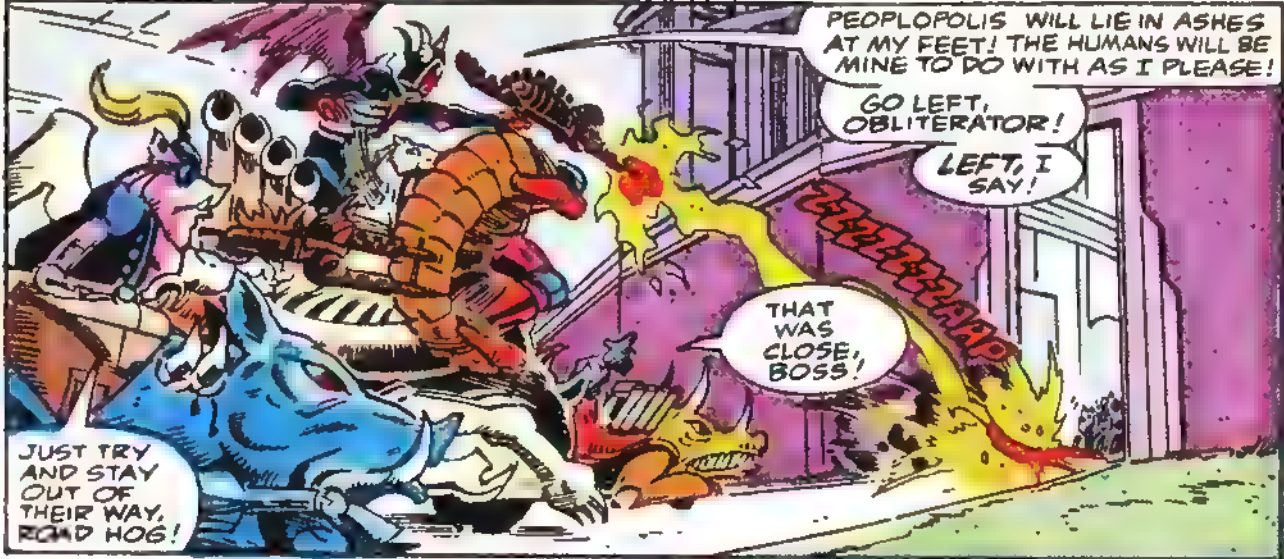
FIGURES.

WHINNY WAY



SURPRISE, ROADTAMERS! IT'S X-TINCTOR AND HIS MERRY MOTOR MUTANT MARCHING SOCIETY! THE BATTLE'S COME HOME AGAIN!





NEARBY...

BEEP BEEP



PURRRRRR

GR...OAAAN

BEEP BEEP BI

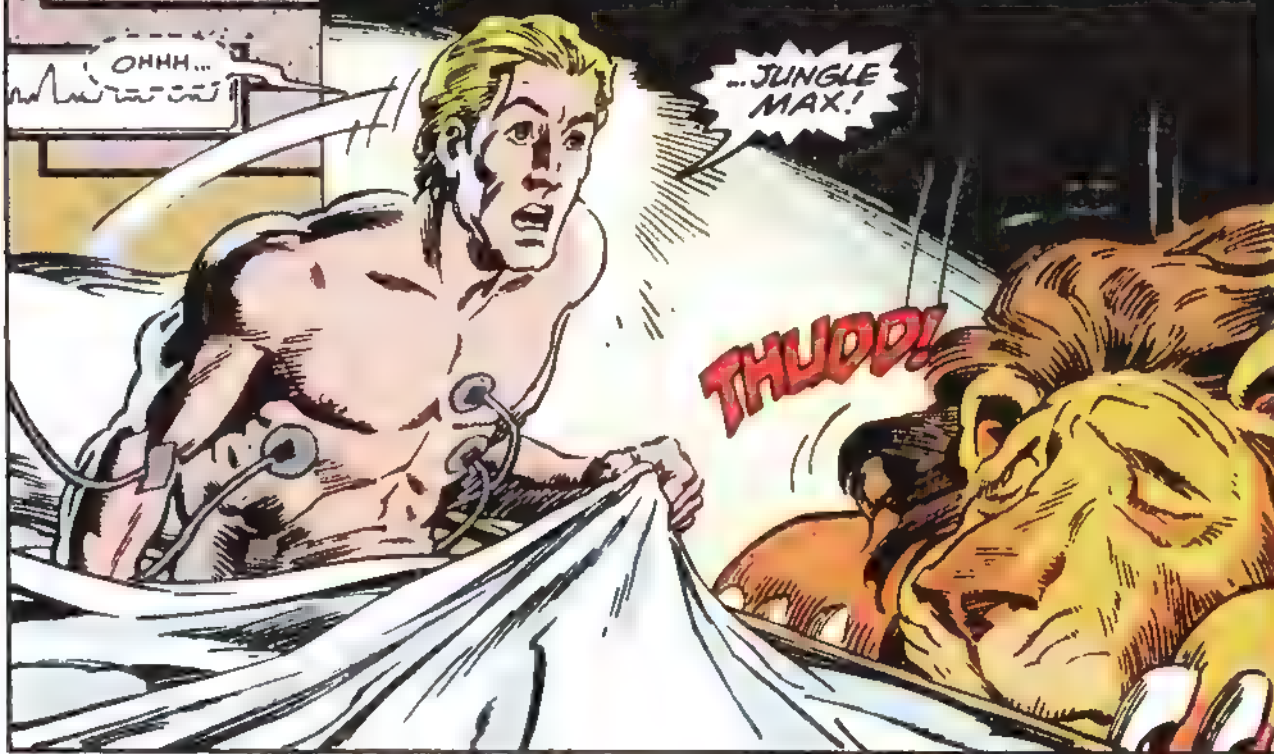


ERK!

BEEP BEEP BE



BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BE



OH...HH...

...JUNGLE
MAX!

THUDD!

ON THE STREETS OUTSIDE...

WILL YOU GET UP
ALREADY, OBLITER-
ATOR? YOU'RE
BEGINNING TO
EMBARRASS ME

LOOK
OUT!

LET'S
SCURRY!

STAY BACK,
ROADTAMERS!
MY AWESOME
X-TERMINATOR...

... WILL PUNISH
THE FIRST TO
APPROACH ME!

AAARSH!

ZZZZAAAPPZZZZ

RRRRR

WOW, THIS ARMOR WORKS BETTER
THAN I THOUGHT-- I HARDLY
FELT A
THING!

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU,
RHINO
RAMMER?

ERK

"WITH YOUR HELP,
THE ROADTAMERS
COULD BE ALL BUT
INVINCIBLE IN
BATTLE OFF ROAD
RHINO RAMMER..."

IF WHAT YOU'VE
TOLD ME IS TRUE,
HUMONGOUS HAULER,
YOU'VE ARRIVED JUST
IN TIME! WE HAVE TO
TELL THE ROADTAMERS
WHAT'S GOING ON!

HEY GUYS, LISTEN UP! THE ANIMAX
LEARNED HOW TO ABSORB OUR
PAIN AT THE CAVE...

AFRAID
TO
SHOOT
AT ME
TOO,
TIGER
TRAK-
KER?

NOT FOR A SECOND,
GREASE KICKER. AS
SOON AS HUMONGOUS
HAULER GETS OUT
OF MY WAY...

REALLY GUYS THIS IS IMPORTANT, LISTEN TO
ME! HUMONGOUS HAULER LEARNED SOME-
THING THAT EVEN THE OTHER ANIMAX DON'T
KNOW...

TIGER TRAKKER--
CAN T ANYONE
HEAR ME?

GRUNT!

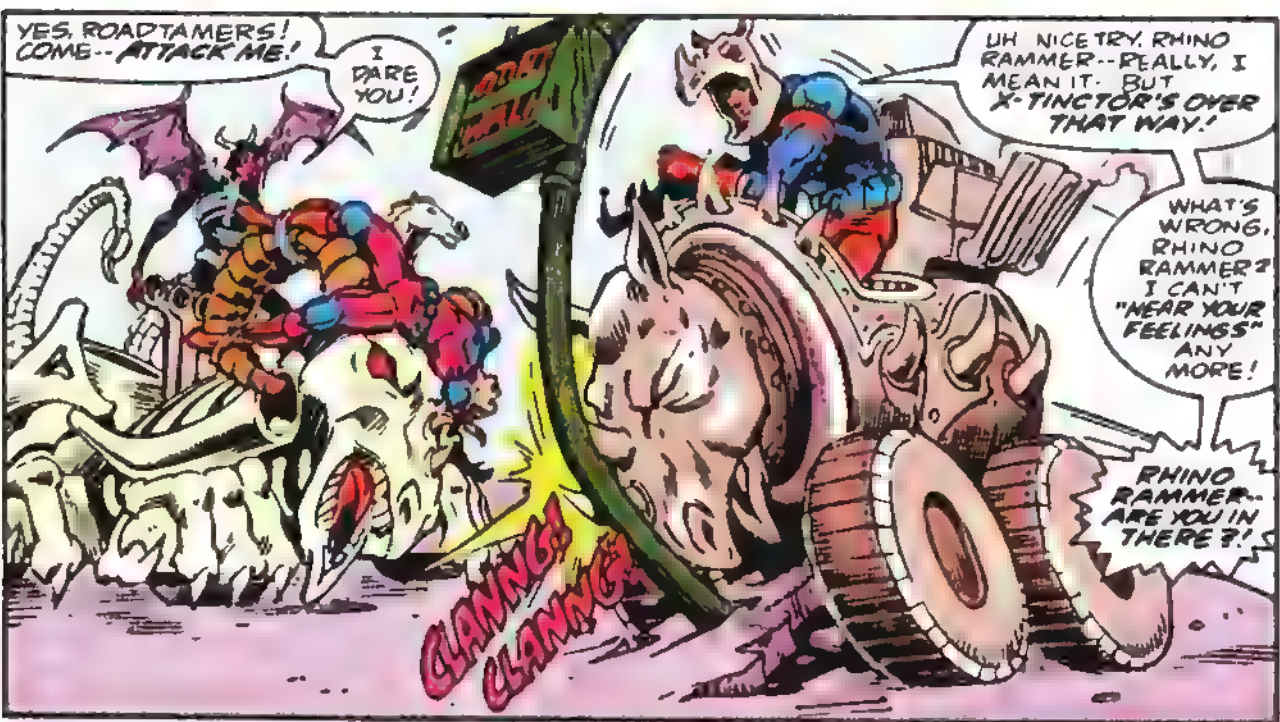
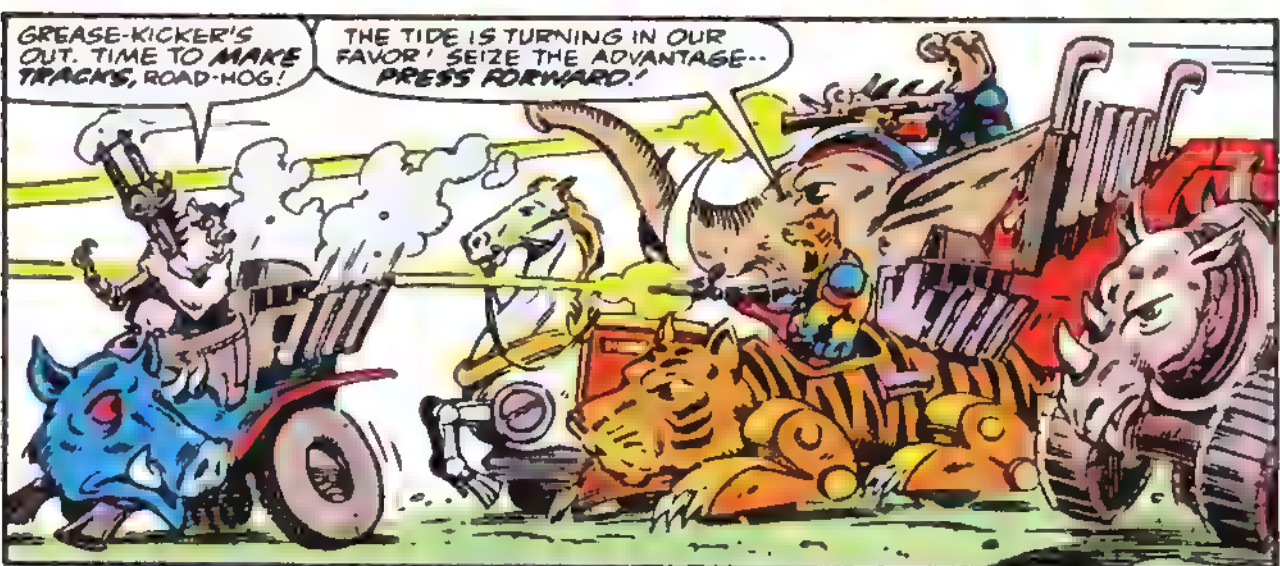
SNORT!

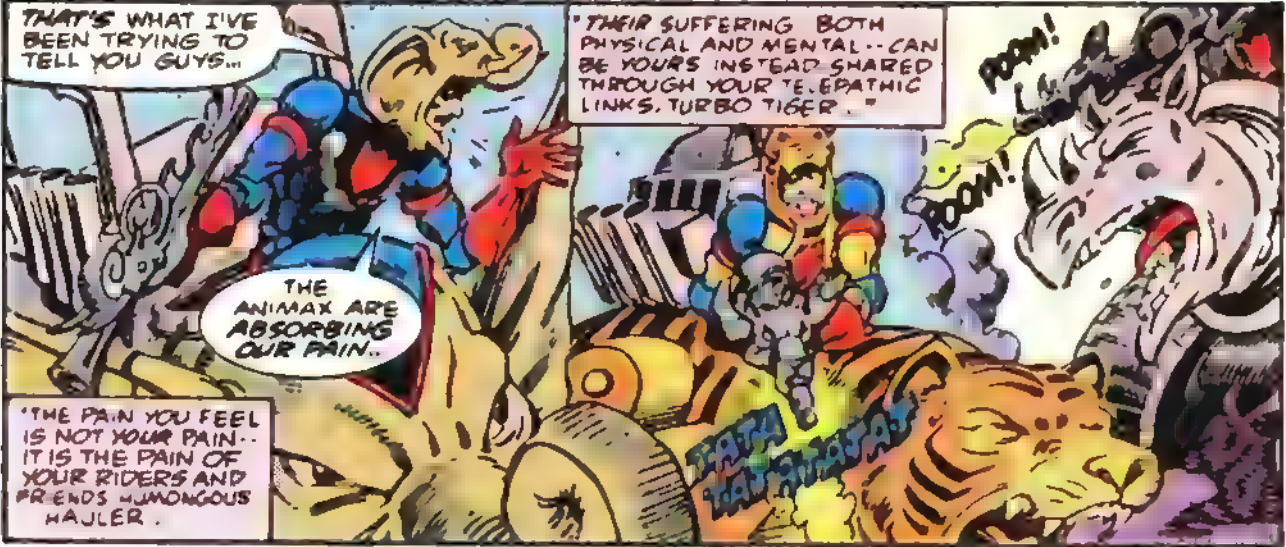
ERRR

FWOOSH!

YOU'RE
CORNERED
NOW, ROAD-
TAMERS! IN
YOUR WEAKENED
CONDITIONS, YOU
NEVER REALLY
STOOD A CHANCE.

THIS IS A GOOD
DISTANCE, ROAD-HOG.





THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU GUYS...

"THEIR SUFFERING BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL... CAN BE YOURS INSTEAD. SHARED THROUGH YOUR TELEPATHIC LINKS, TURBO TIGER."

THE ANIMAX ARE ABSORBING OUR PAIN...

'THE PAIN YOU FEEL IS NOT YOUR PAIN... IT IS THE PAIN OF YOUR RIDERS AND FRIENDS HUMONGOUS HAULER.'



BUT IT'S WEAKENING THEIR PSYCHIC LINKS WITH US--COSTING THEM THEIR VERY SANITY!

"OF COURSE, THERE IS A PRICE, ISN'T THERE...?"

YIKE!

THERE'S MORE! AFTER THE OTHERS LEFT THE CAVE OF LIVING LEGEND, HUMONGOUS HAULER FOUND OUT THA UGNN!

I THINK THEY FORGOT ABOUT US, BULLVER ZER



NO! THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT YET!

HE KNEW ALL ALONG?

HURRY, POWER HORSE!



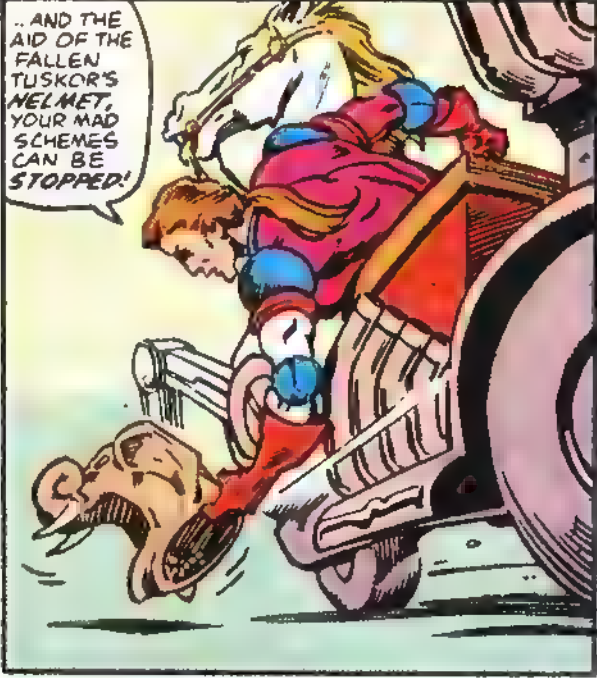
WHA-?!

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT TARMAC WAS GETTING FREE, OBLITERATOR!

TOO LATE NOW, X-TINCTOR!

AND WITH WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM YOUR BAWLING AND RAVING...

.. AND THE
AID OF THE
FALLEN
TUSKOR'S
HELMET,
YOUR MAD
SCHEMES
CAN BE
STOPPED!



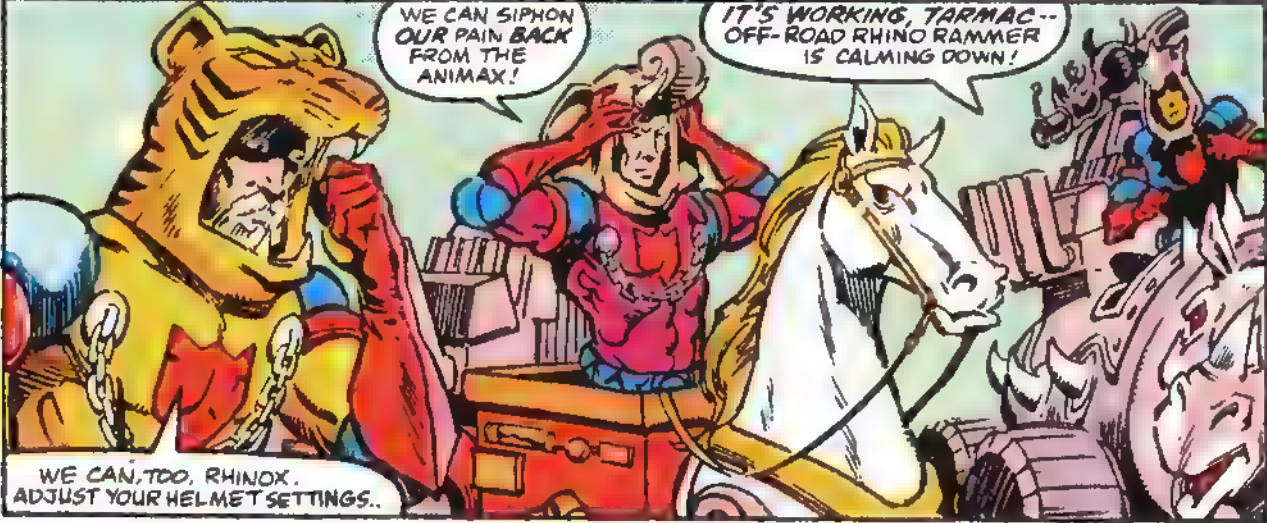
THERE WAS ONE ADVANTAGE TO BEING
X-TINCTOR'S PRISONER-- I WATCHED
AND LISTENED

NOW, BY JUST TWISTING THE
MONITOR DIAL A HALF-TURN
TO THE LEFT...



WE CAN SIPHON
OUR PAIN BACK
FROM THE
ANIMAX!

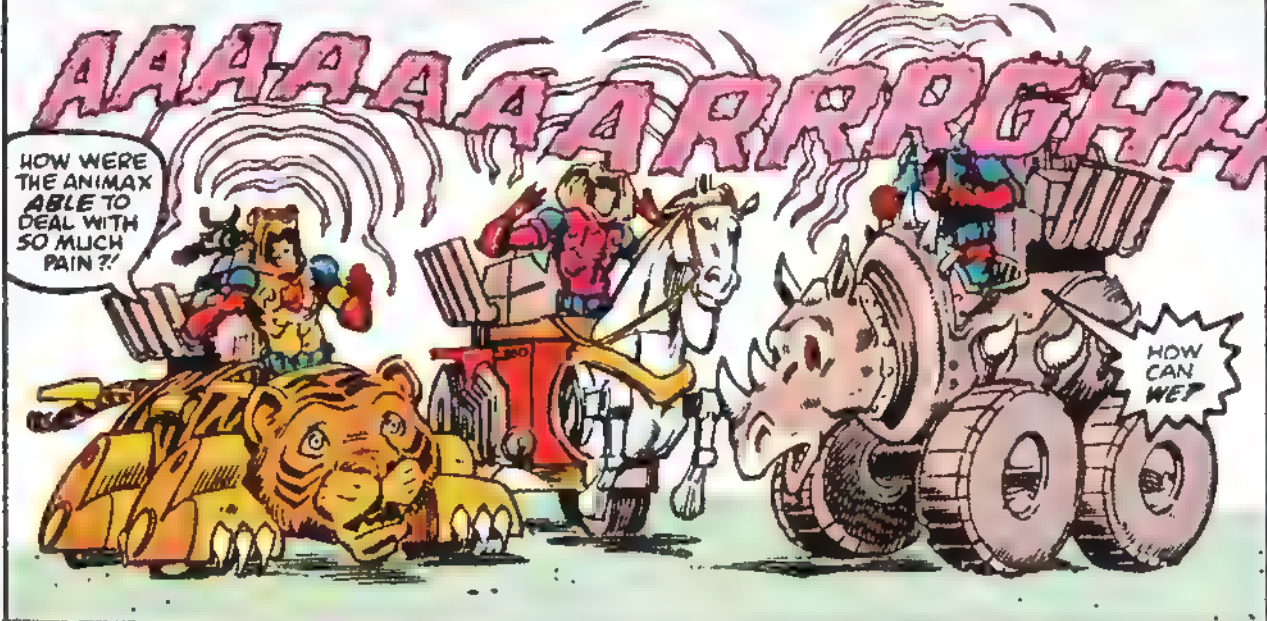
IT'S WORKING, TARMAC--
OFF-ROAD RHINO RAMMER
IS CALMING DOWN!



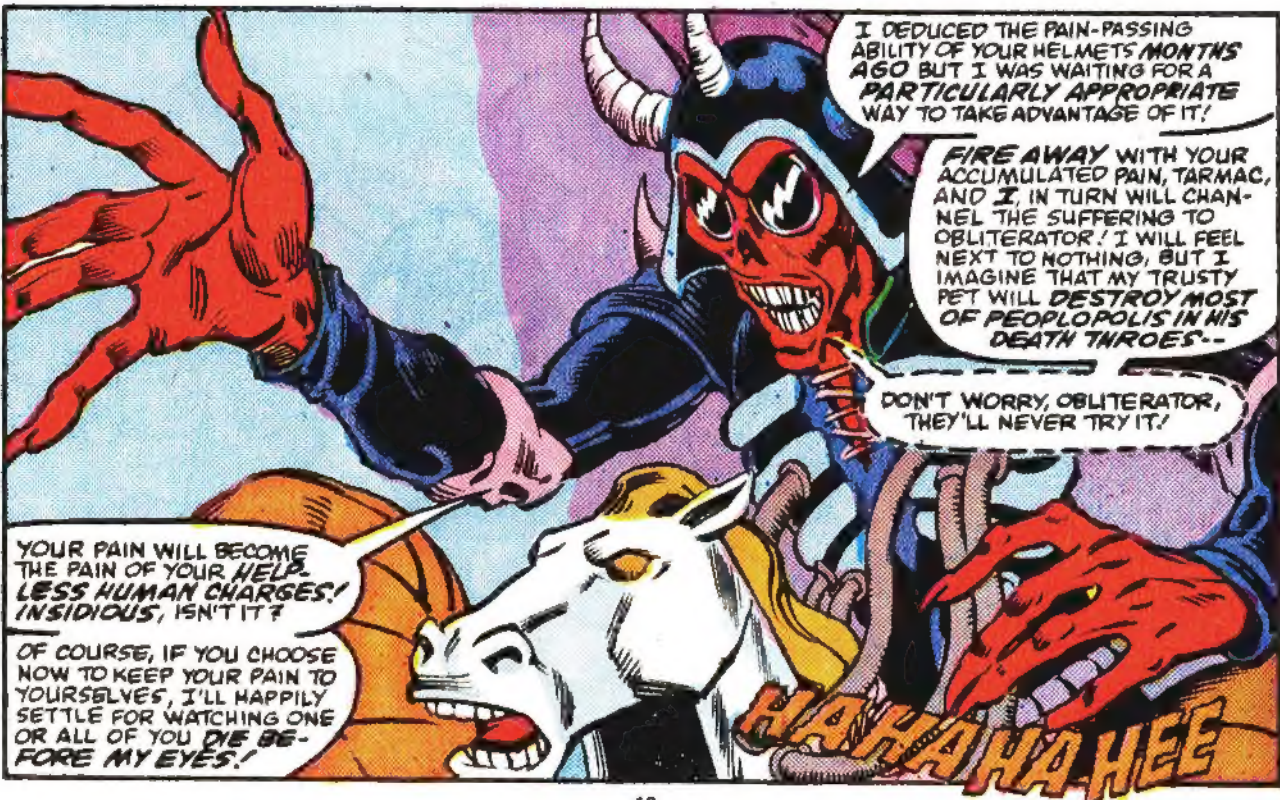
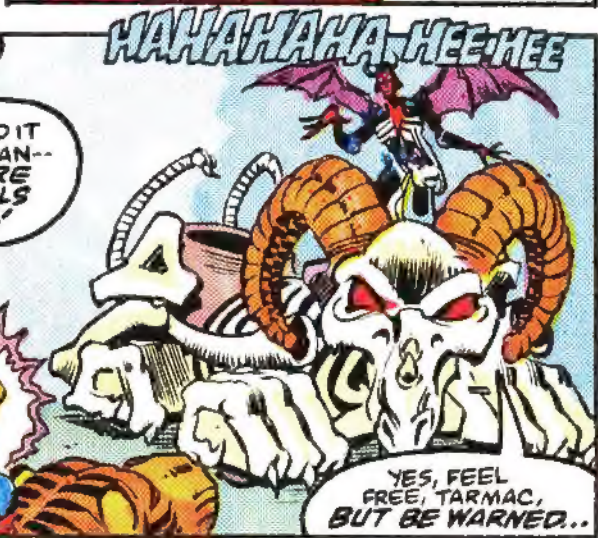
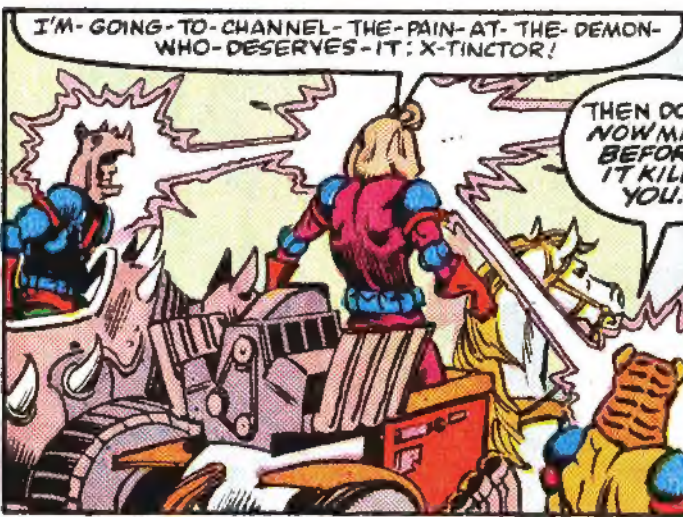
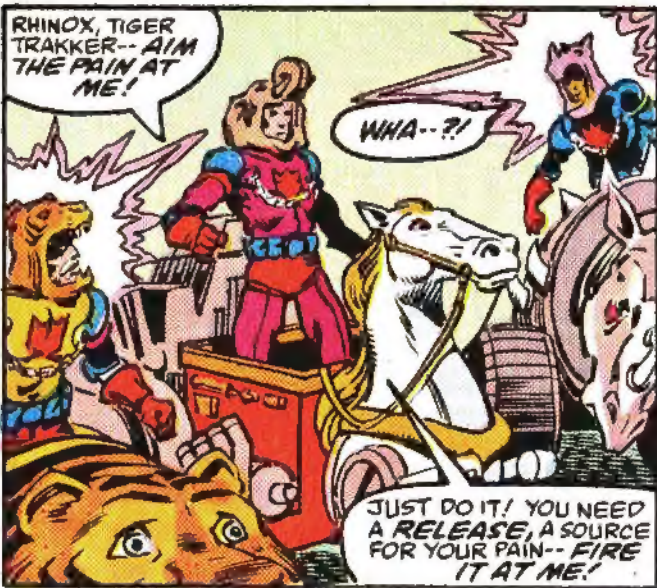
WE CAN, TOO, RHINOX.
ADJUST YOUR HELMET SETTINGS..

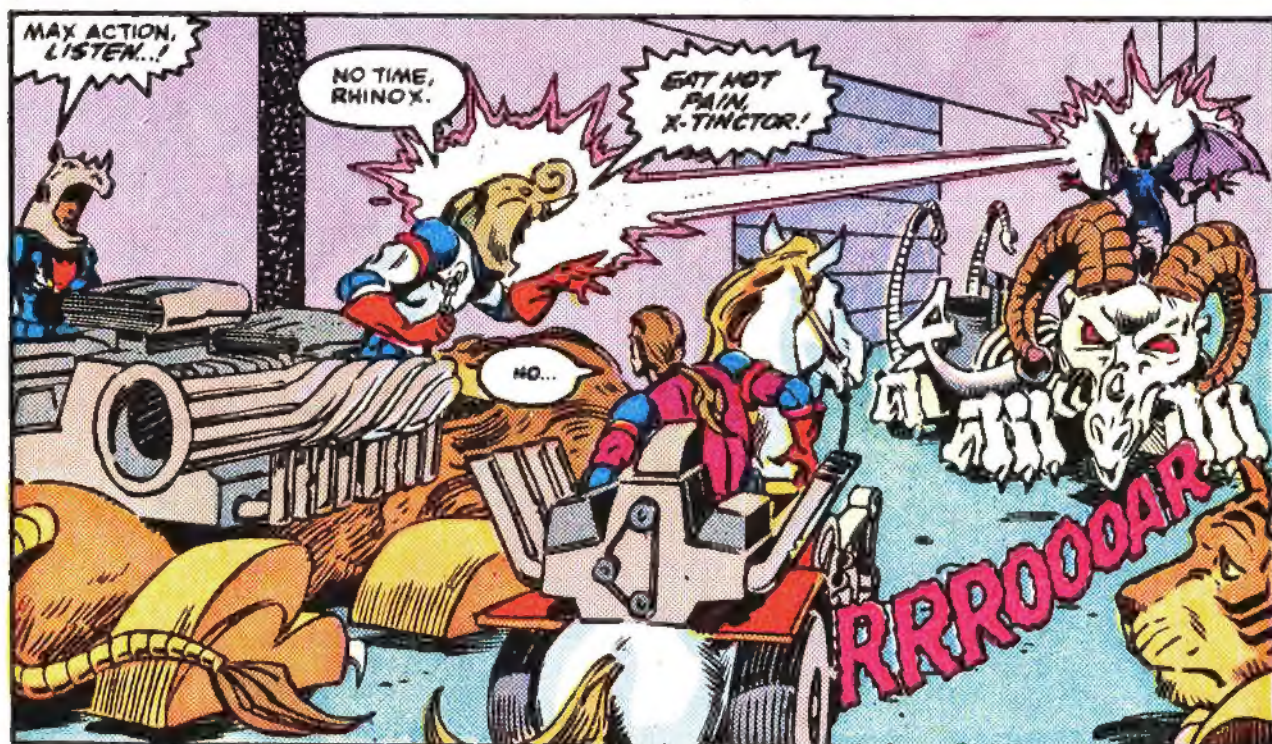
AAAAAARRRRGGHHH

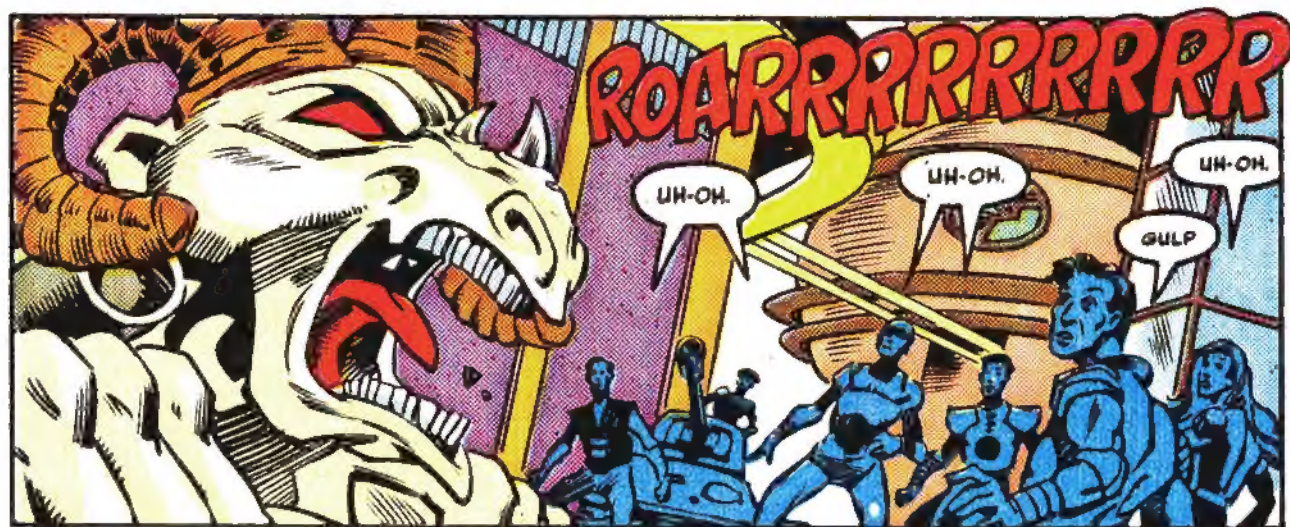
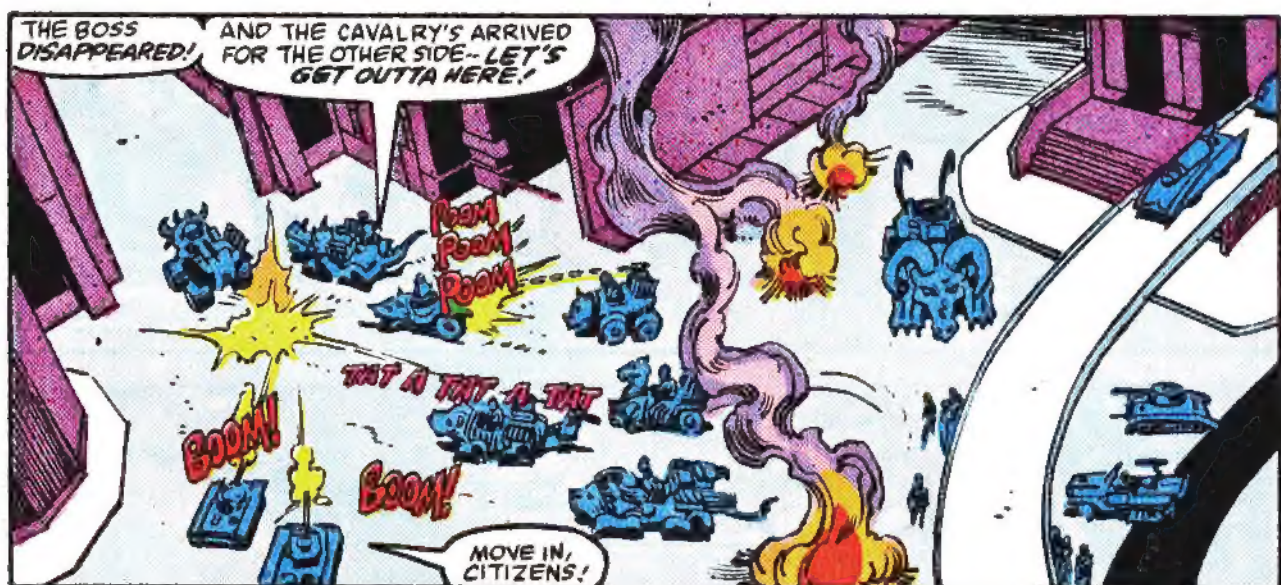
HOW WERE
THE ANIMAX
ABLE TO
DEAL WITH
SO MUCH
PAIN?!

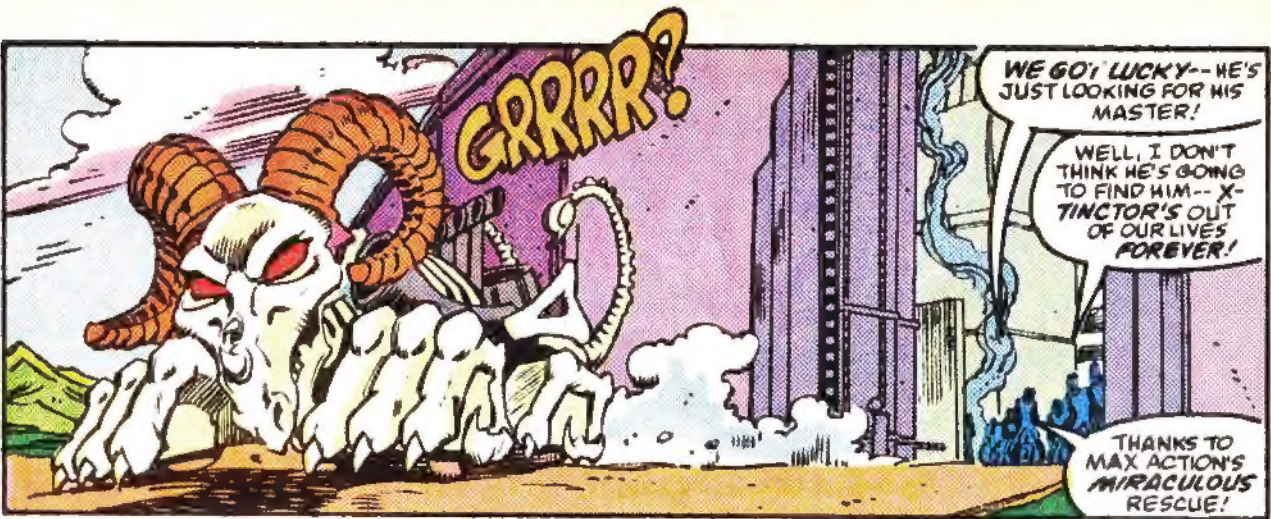


HOW
CAN
WE?









WE GO! LUCKY-- HE'S JUST LOOKING FOR HIS MASTER!

WELL, I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO FIND HIM-- X-TINCTOR'S OUT OF OUR LIVES FOREVER!

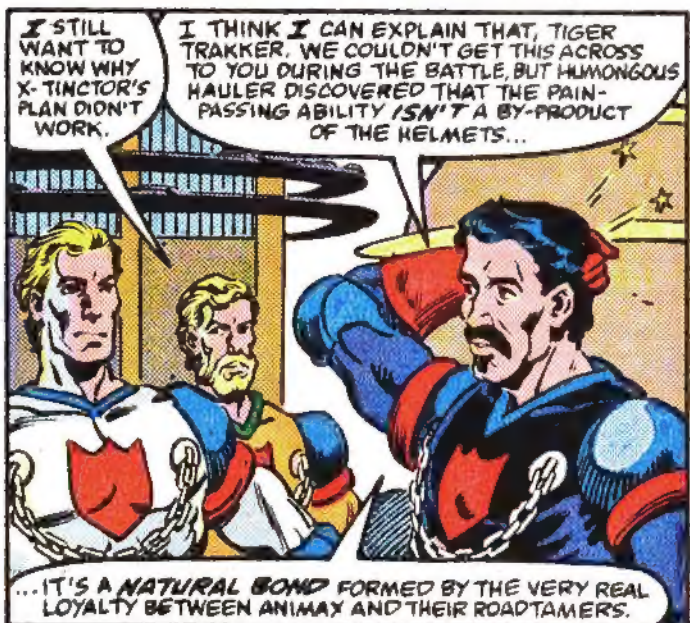
THANKS TO MAX ACTION'S MIRACULOUS RESCUE!



IT'S TRUE, MAX. THE DOCTOR'S SAID YOU'D BE OUT OF ACTION FOR QUITE A WHILE!

IT'S A MIRACLE TO ME, TOO, GUYS, BUT I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER!

RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT JUNGLE MAX-- HE INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING ME INTO BATTLE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM.



I STILL WANT TO KNOW WHY X-TINCTOR'S PLAN DIDN'T WORK.

I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN THAT, TIGER TRAKKER. WE COULDN'T GET THIS ACROSS TO YOU DURING THE BATTLE, BUT HUMONGOUS HAULER DISCOVERED THAT THE PAIN-PASSING ABILITY ISN'T A BY-PRODUCT OF THE HELMETS...

...IT'S A NATURAL BOND FORMED BY THE VERY REAL LOYALTY BETWEEN ANIMAX AND THEIR ROADTAMERS.



A BOND THAT DOESN'T EXIST BETWEEN MOTOR MUTANTS AND CARNIVOURS.

SO, WITH NO CONDUIT FOR THE PAIN, X-TINCTOR'S PLAN LITERALLY BACK-FIRED!

THAT ALSO EXPLAINS MAX ACTION'S RECOVERY AND JUNGLE MAX'S ILLNESS. JUNGLE MAX SIMPLY EXERCISED THIS ABILITY INSTINCTIVELY-- WITHOUT THE HELMET-- THROUGH THE LOVE THAT BONDS THEM TOGETHER!

SO ALL I NEED DO IS SPEND TIME WITH JUNGLE MAX UNTIL OUR NATURAL STRENGTH LEVELS BALANCE OUT!



BUT WHAT KIND OF BOND EXISTS BETWEEN X-TINCTOR AND MYSELF THAT ALLOWED ME TO CHANNEL THE PAIN AT HIM?

AND WHY DO I SO SURELY BELIEVE-- KNOW-- THAT X-TINCTOR IS STILL ALIVE?!

HAAAAHAHAHEE HEE